

CLAIMS

1) An articulated joint for a post-operative knee brace or for articular walkers in general, of the type designed to form an articulated connection between a pair of uprights each of which can be applied to two sectors of the body joint to be treated, characterised in that power-driving means for the angular movement of one upright with respect to the other are fitted at the hinge point connecting the two uprights.

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2) An articulated joint according to the foregoing claim characterised in that the power-driving means consist of a shaped pinion (16) which is part of a unit kinematically connected to an electrical type motor (17) and to a reduction gear unit (17').

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3) An articulated joint according to either of the foregoing claims characterised in that the pinion (16) is part of and integral with a toothed pulley (18) which engages with a worm screw (19) driven by the shaft of the motor (17).

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4) An articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that the worm screw (19) is positioned at a tangent with respect to the pulley (18) and both the screw and the pulley are enclosed in a container (20) which has approximately the same surface extension as the joint discs (13, 14) over which it is positioned.

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5) An articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that the pinion (16), which presents a longitudinally shaped conformation, for example hexagonal, triangular, polygonal, toothed or

similar, is inserted in an appropriate corresponding housing (21) in the pin (15) of the joint, and more specifically in a housing of the pin integral with one of the two uprights.

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6) An articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that the motor (17) and the drive and reduction unit enclosed in the container (20) are fitted on one of the uprights (11), and the pinion (16) is in turn shaped so as to penetrate the corresponding female hole (21) of the pin (15), which is therefore integral with the other upright (12).

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7) An articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that the drive unit consisting of the motor (17) and the container (20) holding the kinematic movement transmission organs, is fitted on a support plate (22) equipped on the opposite side with protruding centering teeth (23).

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8) An articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that the teeth (23) are shaped and arranged so they can be inserted in corresponding housings (24) in the upright (11).

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9) An articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that a locking clip (25) with a substantially "C" shaped cross-section, or another similar shape, clamps the plate (22) on the respective upright (11).

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10) An articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that the motor (17) is connected by appropriate cabling (26) to a power

takeoff which can be represented by a storage battery or a network source, and if necessary to a PLC control unit or the like, which acts by keyboard commands.